

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 107436
ORIGIN SS-25

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PM:GOPLINGER
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COMMERCE: MARCUS, STANLEY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY 0203

S E C R E T STATE 107436

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE 3 PARA 7 OMITTED TEXT)

E.O. 11652: XGDS, 2,3

TAGS: PARM, MNUC, TW, SW

SUBJECT: SALE OF SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT TO TAIWAN

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE FOLLOWING MATTER WITH
LIND OF MFA, AND/OR OTHER SWEDISH OFFICIALS IT MAY DEEM
APPROPRIATE, STRESSING THAT INFORMATION IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE.

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2. US FIRM HAS APPLIED FOR EXPORT LICENSE FROM COMMERCE
FOR A HOT ISOSTATIC PRESS GOING TO THE CHUNG SHAN IN-
STITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CIST) IN TAIWAN. FIRM'S REQUEST
HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN ON SEVERAL GROUNDS:

-- CHUNG SHAN INSTITUTE IS MILITARY R&D ESTABLISHMENT
ENGAGED IN DEVELOPMENT OF WIDE VARIETY OF MUNITIONS, IN-

CLUDING ROCKETS, GUIDED MISSILES, ETC.

-- CHUNG SHAN INSTITUTE IF ALSO CO-LOCATED WITH INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH (INER), AND CIST FREQUENTLY SERVES AS PURCHASING AGENT FOR INER.

-- EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION IS OF SAME TYPE AS EXTENSIVELY USED IN US NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM. WHILE A NUMBER OF OTHER APPLICATIONS OF THIS EQUIPMENT ARE POSSIBLE,

EQUIPMENT COULD BE HIGHLY USEFUL TO A NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM.

-- US DOES HAVE SOME COLLABORATIVE MILITARY R&D ACTIVITIES WITH ROC GOVERNMENT IN DEFENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, THIS PRESS IS NOT NEEDED FOR USE IN ANY SUCH COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM.

3. US HAS APPROACHED GOS ON THIS MATTER BECAUSE OF OUR COMMON INTEREST IN NON-PROLIFERATION, AND BECAUSE OF OUR COMMON OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 14(B) OF THE SUPPLIERS' GUIDELINES TO CONSULT IN SENSITIVE CASES. US FIRM UNDERSTANDS FROM ROC OFFICIALS THAT IF IT IS DENIED LICENSE TO EXPORT, SALE WILL GO TO SWEDISH FIRM OF ASEA, WHICH IS ITS CHIEF COMPETITOR IN FIELD OF LARGE-SCALE HOT ISOSTATIC PRESSES.

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4. PRESS INVOLVED IS DESIGNED FOR A PRESSURE OF UP TO 15,000 PSI, AND A MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 1,000 DEGREES CELSIUS. CAVITY OF THE PRESS IS LARGE, AT 18 INCHES OF INTERIOR DIAMETER, 30 INCHES LONG.

5. US GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TOLD THAT THE PRESS WILL BE USED FOR PRESSING UNIDENTIFIED REINFORCED CARBON MATERIALS. THE FACT THAT SUCH A USE MAY BE INTENDED IN NO WAY PRECLUDES ITS FURTHER USE IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS ACTIVITIES. THUS, AT BEST IT WILL BE USED AT CIST FOR CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS PURPOSES; AT WORST, IT COULD SUCCESSFULLY PERFORM ALL OF THE TASKS FOR ADVANCED PRESSING NEEDED FOR NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS.

6. US DENIAL OF THIS PRESS HAS BECOME CONTROVERSIAL, AND HAS ATTRACTED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT REVEAL THE FULL RANGE OF REASONS FOR OUR CONCERN, WHICH ARE BASED IN PART ON SENSITIVE SOURCES. USG'S CAPACITY TO DENY THIS AND SIMILAR EXPORTS IN THE FUTURE WOULD BE SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED IF OUR POSITIONS WERE UNDERCUT BY SUBSEQUENT SWEDISH SALE. WE WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE,

THAT THE GOS COULD FIND SOME MEANS OF ASSURING THAT HOT ISOSTATIC PRESSES, AS WELL AS GAS AUTOCLAVES, HAVING LARGE DIAMETER (IN EXCESS OF 5 INCHES OF INTERIOR DIAMETER), HIGH PRESSURE (IN EXCESS OF 5,000 PSI), HIGH TEMPERATURE (WELL IN EXCESS OF 80 DEGREES CELCIUS) ARE NOT SOLD TO TAIWAN WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US.

7. US WISHES TO STRESS THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS MATTER, AND THE HOPE THAT THE NUMBER OF SWEDISH OFFICIALS MADE AWARE OF US APPROACH CAN BE HELD TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. US, FOR ITS PART, HAS HELD KNOWLEDGE OF OUR APPROACH TO THE GOS EXTREMELY CLOSELY.

8. BEGIN FYI: US FIRM HAS APPEALED THE DENIAL OF AN
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EXPORT LICENSE FOR THIS EQUIPMENT. IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF WE COULD GET AN EARLY RESPONSE FROM THE SWEDES. VANCE

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